

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

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www.naccc.org

NACCC NEWS

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FROM MY HEART TO YOURS

Dear Friends,

“What are the bridges?” he asked at the end of the recent Church Growth workshop held at the CalWest Association’s gathering at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Pomona. He was asking about the bridges between the 60 years old (and older) members of our churches and the 40 years old (and younger).

Good question. My plea to that group and to all our churches is that they take the question seriously. To do so means that churches have to do some homework. Asking “What are the bridges?” can indicate frustrations or a genuine desire to get the answer. I know that the person who asked that question at the workshop is the moderator of his church and really has the desire to help his congregation build the bridge.

Here is a way to get started. Set up a dialogue between the two age-groups about their spiritual stories and journeys. You’ll be surprised what you will learn from each other. Traditional and modern expressions of faith are very different. Older people don’t understand why their perfectly beautiful buildings, their great minister, and the programs they now have are not enough for young people. They don’t understand the world view of younger generations. Younger adults and youth often feel older people don’t care about them, and want them to be part of a church in which they are not comfortable. They are not sure that older people want to know who they are, or what they believe. Talking with each other, telling your stories, may be the place to start building.

There are other things which can be done to build bridges. Ask us. We’ll be happy to lead you to some excellent resources which will help you begin transformative conversations.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Dr. Thomas Richard
Executive Secretary

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Let's Talk Governance

While Governance and Bylaws might not seem like a hot topic, the subject brought together 45 people from around the state of Michigan.

The Michigan Conference of Congregational

Churches and the Center for Congregational Leadership partnered to sponsor the all-day event at Olivet College in Olivet. Participants represented 16 churches all in different stages of evaluating mission, vision, and bylaws. They shared with each other their challenges and successes, and gained wisdom and insight from one another. Rev. Matt Olsen of First Congregational Church of St. Johns and Rev. Mimi Biedron of North Congregational Church in Farmington Hills made presentations describing their processes for governance change at their locations. Rev. Dr. Marty Hall of First Congregational Church in Clarkston and Rev. Dr. Betsey Mauro, Dean of the Center for Congregational Leadership, designed and facilitated the day.

In addition to information sharing, the day connected Congregational Christians to one another and deepened fellowship. As Dr. Hall observed, "It truly was a valuable event in ways far beyond the information we shared around the tables."

The Center for Congregational Leadership is committed to excellence in education, leadership and vision. Through innovative partnerships with Associations and churches, the Center works to enhance the leadership skills of laity and clergy on behalf of our member churches. The gathering on governance is the first of many partnerships the Center hopes to establish to aid churches in remaining a vital witness to Christ in these challenging times. "The conference was meaningful and informative. I look forward to the opportunity to participate in other related discussions," said Linda Kuopus of Pine Hill Congregational Church in West Bloomfield.

For more information about the Center and educational opportunities, contact Dr. Mauro at bmauro@naccc.org or 1-800-262-1620 x. 12

Blessings,
Betsey



PLAN NOW TO JOIN US FOR THE 7TH CONGREGATIONAL SYMPOSIUM, OCTOBER 28-30, 2010 AT OLIVET COLLEGE IN OLIVET, MI.

PRESENTATIONS WILL BE FOCUSED ON THE THEME CONGREGATIONALISM:

LEADING FROM THE WILDERNESS. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE POSTMODERN WORLD. YOU MAY BEGIN TO ENGAGE IN THE THEME AS AN INDIVIDUAL OR CHURCH WITH THE STUDY GUIDE PROVIDED ON THE NACCC WEBSITE. REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN IN JULY. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT REV. DR. BETSEY MAURO AT [BMAURO@NACCC.ORG](mailto:bmauro@naccc.org) OR MARIE STEELE AT [MSTEELE@NACCC.ORG](mailto:msteele@naccc.org)

2010 ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE - ANCHORAGE, ALASKA



An exciting Annual Meeting and Conference awaits you in Anchorage

Come and make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord and join the combined choirs for the National Conference. One hour long rehearsal will be held as we prepare an anthem for the Sunday communion service. Check your schedule for date and time. We will be singing John Rutter's "For the Beauty of the Earth". If you have a copy of this beautiful anthem...bring it North with you! Email me with any questions asc@gci.net. I look forward to hearing your beautiful voices sing His praises! All parts welcome.

*Peggy McBride
Choir Director
First Cong'l Church of Anchorage*

Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our grateful hymn of praise.

Founders Library is at Olivet

The Founders Library is now at our Center for Congregational Leadership at Olivet College, where we hope that it will be used both by students of CFTS, clergy visiting the Center, and the general population of the college. We are in conversation with The Congregational Library in Boston concerning our archival library. There is a possibility that not only would they house the archives but also put the papers in a retrievable on-line form.

WHO ANSWERS THE PHONE WHEN YOU CALL?

We do. When you call the NACCC office we will do everything possible to help answer your question(s), connect you with the right person(s), or refer you to the correct place, site, form, or resource. The number? 1-800-262-1620
Have a question and the office is closed? Send an email to naccc@naccc.org.

CAMPAIGN CORNER



NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Branching Out in Alaska

Currently the NACCC team is hard at work preparing for the 2010 Annual Meeting in Anchorage. During the opening presentation on Saturday afternoon, Congregational Foundation President Jim Hopkins and Dean Betsey Mauro from the Center for Congregational Leadership will join me to share new developments that have grown out of the campaign. Attendees at the meeting will learn how individuals and churches can participate in bringing *Branching Out* to a successful conclusion over the next year.

Branching Out donors as well as other supporters will have an opportunity to celebrate at the Congregational Foundation's Donor Appreciation Reception on Monday at 6:00 p.m. This is our opportunity to thank all NACCC contributors and honor the two churches below that were recently awarded grants from the Foundation's Richard Fund.

Richard Fund Grant Awards

John Calvin Richard, brother of NACCC Executive Secretary Dr. Thomas Richard, was a talented singer, actor and director. After his passing in 2006, the Richard family established a memorial fund within the Congregational Foundation to honor his lifelong love of music and theater. The Richard Fund awards grants of up to \$500 to NACCC churches of 200 members or less to help de-

fray costs for a special music or performing arts event in their church.

This year several churches submitted applications that were worthy of funding. The Foundation's Board of Governors is pleased to announce that grants have been awarded to the following churches:

***First Congregational Church
Saugatuck, Michigan***

Grant Award – \$500 for Chicago Classic Brass Christmas Concert in December 2010

***First Congregational Church
Albany, New York***

Grant Award – \$200 for Teddy Bear Concert on March 5, 2011

Congratulations to these NACCC churches! If you would like more information about the above, please call me at 1-800-262-1620 x25 or email ddavid@naccc.org.

Hope to see you soon at the Annual Meeting in Anchorage!

Diana David
Director of Development (Part-Time)

THANK YOU!

THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES ARE FIRST-TIME CONTRIBUTORS OR RETURNING CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SHARED MINISTRIES FUND BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2010 AND MARCH 31, 2010.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, RIO VISTA, CA
 COLEBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, COLEBROOK, CT
 THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF THE VILLAGES, LADY LAKE, FL
 MCGRAFT MEMORIAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, MUSKEGON, MI
 RAPID RIVER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, RAPID RIVER, MI
 ALEXIS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, TOLEDO, OH

THANK YOU FOR THE BLESSING OF JOINING IN FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER NACCC CHURCHES CONTRIBUTING TO THE SHARED MINISTRIES FUND!

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

FCC, Wauwatosa, Easter offering went to local and global needs – Community Food Pantry and Myanmar; church member has donated land for the creation of a garden, the produce from which will be given to Feeding America (formerly Second Harvest); just heard that Steven Peay has resigned his position and is going to return to teaching fulltime....

Preston City Cong'l, Twelve young people were confirmed in March; the church awards a number of scholarships each year; men from church attending “Iron Sharpens Iron” conference, encouraging men to live out their God-given potential... **FCC, Spencer**, Robert and Rebecca Blue-stone presenting two events – State of Grace (speaking of how creativity encourages healing), and Woven Harmony a multi-media presentation by the couple, combining art and music; Core Ministry group is planning a worship service on “The Queen” a boat on Lake Okoboji...

Olivet Cong'l, mission board is raising funds for the International Christian Student Assistance Fund; Judith Gonzales, has been selected to receive the Heart and Soul Award, from the Michigan Campus Compact... **FCC, Frankfort**, celebrated Holy Humor Sunday; recently did a complete energy audit of the Church; third grader Cecelia Schmitt placed 1st on the Odyssey of the Mind group competition... **Bethany Union, Chicago**, volunteers work in “Kids Off the Block” after school program to better lives of youth at their nearby High School... **FCC, Otsego**, eight women from the church are attending the “Women of Joy” conference in Kentucky; they participate in multi-church soup dinners and all the proceeds go to the Christian Neighbor’s Food Pantry; offering couples a six-week study on Marriage Built to Last

program... **FCC, Portland**, Confirmation lock-in for 11 youth, six of whom qualified for confirmation class... **FCC, Clear Lake**, A Day of Hope and Healing, has been set aside to help grieving children; Church to host Iowa-Nebraska Spring Mtg... **Pilgrim Cong'l, Pomona**; church to host Spring mtg of CalWest Assoc.... **FCC, Albany** raising funds for the new stairway to the stars (front stairs of their church building); recently hosted a dinner for fifty-year members.



CONGREGATIONAL SPIRITUAL PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCES RETREAT SCHEDULE

The CSP (which comprises both the Congregational Society of Classical Retreat Guides and the newly formed Spiritual Life Ministries) has changed their Annual Meeting and fall Retreat plans. The schedule includes:

- June 25 FCC, Anchorage, from 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Helen Cunningham will be the retreat guide.
(hc6645@gmail.com)
- Oct. 26-28th Silent Retreat in Michigan
(more details to follow)
- Oct. 28th Annual Meeting of the CSP
(planned for same location as retreat)
- Oct. 28th “Leading From the Wilderness”
Theological symposium at Olivet College.

For more information contact: Rev. Martha Swanson, President of CSP, 115 Elm Ave., Wollaston, MA 02170

RECENT EXECUTIVE AND FRATERNAL VISITS

Dr. Tom Richard visited:

Fox River, Pewaukee; Center Church, Atlanta; Piedmont College Trustees Mtg and Graduation; University Church, Wichita; Plymouth Church, Wichita; CalWest Assoc, Pomona; FCC, Redlands; Mass Assoc. of CCC in Holbrook, Chiltonville Cong'l Church, Plymouth; ; FCC, Central Lake; Mayflower, Grand Rapids; Plymouth Church, Lansing; Grace North Church, Berkeley; Sedgwick Cong'l Church; FCC, Emporia; McGraft Memorial Cong'l Church, Muskegon.

Rev. Phil Jackson represented the NA recently at Susan Thornton's installation service in Marshfield, MA.

Rev. Phil Jackson represented the NA at a recent search committee meeting at Union Church in Braintree, MA.

Rev. Don Mayberry represented the NA recently at Natalie Blake's installation at FCC, East Baldwin, ME.

Dr. Neil Hunt represented the NA at a visit with the new Senior Minister at Thomas Edison Church in Ft. Myers, FL, Rev. Douglas Kelchner .

Dr. Steven Berry represented the NA at Ken Clarke's installation at FCC Bennington, VT on May 16th.

Rev. Bob Carlson represented the NA at the funeral of Rev. Dr. Lyn Bradley, Senior Minister of FCC, Millinocket, ME, on May 22nd.

Dr. Betsey Mauro will be representing the NA at the memorial service of Rev. Dr. Robert Haldane at Arbor Grove Congregational Church, MI, on June 19th.

Dr. Tom Richard represented the NA at the memorial service of Rev. Peggy Blackman, at Plymouth Church, Lansing, MI.

NA Moderator, Sherry Glab, represented the NA at the funeral of Steve Casner at Pilgrim Cong'l, Pomona, CA.

Dr. Betsey Mauro visited:

FCC, Fruitport, MI; FCC, Saugatuck, MI; Iowa-Nebraska Association meeting; Congregational Christian Churches of Maine meeting; Central Michigan Congregational Christian Churches meeting.

PASTORAL/STAFF REVIEWS

We would like to supply our member churches with more samples of pastoral/staff reviews that you or your church might be using. While we realize there are resource materials from different denominations, there may be things unique to our polity that are used. Would you give us permission to use your review process on our website? Contact Tom Richard (trichard@nacc.org). There is also an excellent recent addition to our web site under our clergy benefits partner, MMBB. Here is the pathway:
www.nacc.org/resources/clergybenefits/the_ministers_and_missionaries_benefit_board/clergypay/relations_committee.



**DO YOU HAVE SOME GOOD USED
PEW CUSHIONS?**

Mayflower church in Lansing, MI is looking for used pew cushions. You can contact Rev. Rick Martin on his cell phone 517-588-9805.

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

JUNE

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| June 1, 1946 | Paul Bennehoff | June 7, 1992 | Mary Koch |
| June 1, 1947 | Clyde Kauffman | June 7, 1992 | Tonna parsons |
| June 1, 1953 | Charles Harlow | June 8, 2003 | Linda Anderson |
| June 1, 1957 | J. Williams | June 8, 2008 | Amanda Ladegard |
| June 1, 1958 | Richard Mapplebeckpalmer | June 9, 1965 | Robert Countess |
| June 1, 1961 | Gabe Campbell | June 9, 1968 | Vincent Carroll |
| June 1, 1961 | James Hart | June 9, 1979 | Dougals Drown |
| June 1, 1962 | David Gray | June 9, 2000 | Robert Hellam |
| June 1, 1963 | Earl Alger | June 9, 2002 | Angela Buchauer |
| June 1, 1970 | Richard Adair | June 9, 2002 | Gary Schwerin |
| June 1, 1973 | Milton White | June 10, 1973 | Robert Gault |
| June 1, 1975 | David Claassen | June 10, 1973 | James Keough |
| June 1, 1975 | David Root | June 10, 2007 | Shelli Poe-Messner |
| June 1, 1976 | Leon J. Petty | June 11, 1957 | David Carmen |
| June 1, 1977 | John Westfall | June 11, 1977 | Martha Hodgson |
| June 1, 1979 | Richard Haferman | June 11, 1994 | David Getreu |
| June 1, 1980 | Richard Irving | June 11, 1995 | Richard Schruba |
| June 1, 1983 | Odus Eubanks | June 11, 2004 | Linda Bishop |
| June 1, 1984 | John Jerving | June 12, 1974 | John Pearson |
| June 1, 1991 | Robert Joy | June 12, 1981 | William Rafuse |
| June 1, 1992 | Richard Corning | June 12, 1983 | Sandra Reed |
| June 1, 1995 | Ronald Kline | June 12, 1988 | Martha Swanson |
| June 1, 1997 | Amy Hair | June 12, 2005 | Jennifer Henderson |
| June 1, 2002 | Michael Coffee | June 13, 1962 | Donald Sinclair |
| June 2, 1982 | Steve Burt | June 13, 1985 | Leonard Capobianco |
| June 2, 1985 | Henry Belcher | June 13, 1999 | Martin Hall |
| June 2, 1990 | Catherine Schuyler | June 13, 2004 | Marilyn Glavin |
| June 2, 2002 | Adrienne Eggleston | June 13, 2004 | Donald Ray |
| June 3, 1983 | Roger Olsen | June 14, 1954 | Eric Britcher |
| June 3, 1984 | Alice Murphy | June 14, 1959 | Richard Buchman |
| June 3, 1990 | Thomas Van Tassell | June 14, 1963 | Chester Axline |
| June 4, 1963 | Earl Crutchfield | June 14, 1987 | Joy Baumgartner |
| June 4, 1978 | David Kimberly | June 14, 1992 | Jean Miller |
| June 4, 1978 | Patrick Shelley | June 14, 1997 | Frank Dunbar |
| June 4, 1983 | Joyce Acree | June 14, 1998 | Virginia Pomeroy |
| June 4, 1984 | Karl Ostberg | June 14, 2009 | David Stasiak |
| June 4, 1989 | Robert Christian | June 15, 1954 | Robert Ripley |
| June 5, 1977 | John Cahill | June 15, 1979 | William Beagle |
| June 5, 1977 | Samuel Graham | June 15, 1980 | Susan Wyman |
| June 5, 1981 | Lonnie Richardson | June 15, 1997 | Donald Mayberry |
| June 5, 1999 | Christopher Rygh | June 15, 2008 | Seth Jones |
| June 6, 1982 | Robert Summers | June 16, 2002 | Peter Barclay |
| June 6, 1983 | Kevin Roach | June 16, 2007 | Arthur Wright |
| June 6, 1993 | J. Bentley | June 17, 1979 | Joseph Hughes |
| June 7, 1969 | Michael McBride | June 17, 1984 | Giovan King |
| June 7, 1970 | Dave Spahn | June 17, 1998 | Donald Bentley |
| June 7, 1990 | Thomas Johnson | June 17, 1998 | Marilyn Danielson |



ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES (CONT)

JUNE cont.

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| June 17, 2006 | Barry Szymanski |
| June 18, 1973 | Lowell Linden |
| June 18, 1978 | Ronald Hutson |
| June 18, 1981 | Charles Stanley |
| June 18, 1995 | Thomas Healey |
| June 19, 1954 | Arthur Rouner, Jr. |
| June 19, 1977 | William Genda |
| June 20, 1947 | Arvel M. Steece |
| June 20, 1952 | Lyle Schossow |
| June 20, 1965 | Norman Rust |
| June 20, 1976 | Steven Bailey |
| June 20, 1980 | Robert Fleming |
| June 20, 1982 | William Clark, Jr. |
| June 20, 1989 | Craig Walker |
| June 20, 1993 | Clyde Parrish |
| June 21, 1953 | William Rodefer |
| June 21, 1987 | Stu Merkel |
| June 22, 2000 | Suzanne Wood |
| June 23, 1973 | Franklin (Sandy) Pierson |
| June 23, 1978 | Miriam Resch |
| June 23, 1985 | David Hart |
| June 23, 1985 | Peter Smith |
| June 23, 1996 | Richard Rodgers |
| June 23, 1996 | Rebecca Ver Straten-McSparran |
| June 25, 1967 | Karl Schimpf |
| June 26, 1993 | Gene deJongh |
| June 27, 1965 | Raymond Nyquist |
| June 27, 1982 | Steven Blackburn |
| June 28, 1975 | Thomas Miller |
| June 29, 1943 | A. Ray Applequist |
| June 29, 1963 | Leslie Shultz II |
| June 29, 1975 | Bill Ashley |
| June 29, 1997 | Gary Stevens |
| June 29, 2003 | Jonathan Noble |
| June 30, 1968 | Lloyd Hall, Jr. |
| June 30, 1968 | Timothy Miller |
| June 30, 1974 | Randall Hase |



JULY

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| July 1, 1990 | George Blair |
| July 1, 1999 | Steven Nickles |
| July 1, 2004 | Jeff Patton |
| July 2, 1983 | John Navarre |
| July 7, 1952 | Jack Carmichael |
| July 7, 1965 | Robert Bentley |
| July 8, 1990 | Eva Salmons |
| July 9, 1963 | Arnold Crocker |
| July 9, 1989 | Fred Cheney |
| July 10, 1952 | Dean Echols |
| July 10, 1983 | William Trump |
| July 10, 1994 | Thom Christian |
| July 10, 2005 | Hillary H.V. Bowser |
| July 11, 1987 | Robert Coates |
| July 11, 1999 | Carol Ahrens |
| July 12, 1987 | D. Elizabeth Mauro |
| July 13, 1991 | John Mabry |
| July 13, 2003 | Archie Pennington |
| July 15, 2000 | Casey vanderBent |
| July 17, 1989 | Edith Winter |
| July 17, 1993 | Lottie Jones Hood |
| July 21, 2002 | Barry Holmes |
| July 22, 1955 | Louis Gerhardt |
| July 23, 1978 | Phil Jackson |
| July 23, 1993 | Daniel Clark |
| July 23, 2000 | Vance Jordan |
| July 24, 1976 | Leo Christian |
| July 25, 1993 | Arthur Rudman |
| July 27, 1994 | Rick Brown |
| July 27, 2008 | Christopher Meirose |
| July 28, 1968 | Norman Christopherson |
| July 29, 1956 | Donald Keepers |
| July 29, 1973 | James Holl |
| July 29, 2007 | Nancy White |
| July 31, 1968 | Kenneth Beres |
| July 31, 1977 | John Curtis |

OOPS—the following ordination anniversary was missed in the April/May issue.
May 22, 1960 Burkert Cree

Massachusetts Mountain Congregational Association Sees Renewed Interest

The Mountain Congregational Association of Western Massachusetts met in Becket, MA for its annual spring meeting on May 23. There was excitement in the air as churches gathered for fellowship with each other in the name of Jesus. Several new pastors in the area expressed a desire to help rebuild and revitalize the Association. Rev. Sue L. Stewart of White Oaks Congregational Church in Williamstown, MA, jumped at the opportunity to host the fall meeting.

The theme of the meeting was "*Faith, Freedom, and Fellowship*", with a strong emphasis on "fellowship." Mr. William Mulholland, Academic Dean at Berkshire Community College and leader of the Becket Praise Team, spoke about introducing praise music into worship. The Becket Praise Team entertained the group with praise music which involved a good amount of singing by all in attendance.

New officers were elected. They are Rev. Kevin C. Smail of Becket, Moderator; Rev. Irv Gammon of Florence, Vice-Moderator; Sharon DeGiorgis of Windsor, secretary and Paula Fisher of Becket, treasurer.

Kevin Smail
Becket Federated Church
First Congregational Church of Becket
aka: The Yoked Parish of Becket

SEND ME YOUR NEWS

Submissions for the August/September edition are due by July 15, 2010.

Marie Steele, Editor
msteele@naccc.org

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Bringing together Congregational Christian Churches for mutual care and outreach to our world in the name of Jesus Christ.

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